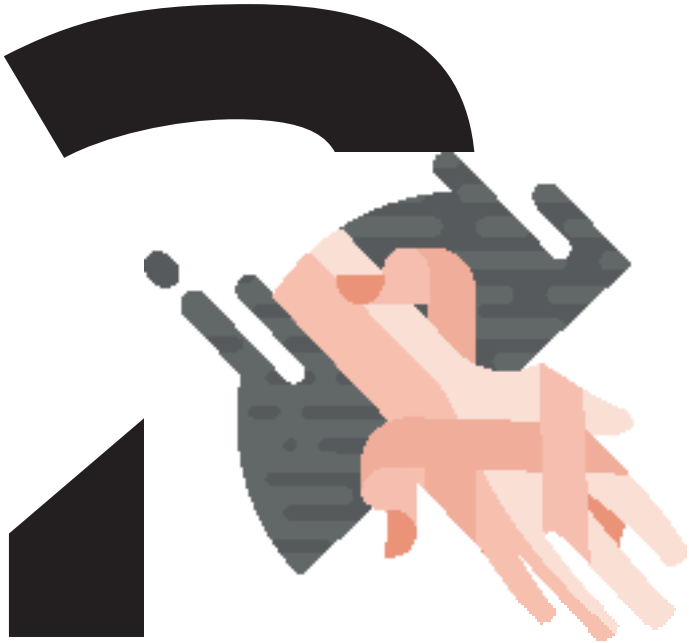


Unit .22

Session .02

Jesus Heals a Woman and Raises a Girl

Scripture

Mark 5:21-43

21 When Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the sea. **22** One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet **23** and begged him earnestly, "My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she can get well and live." **24** So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following and pressing against him. **25** Now a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years **26** had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, she became worse. **27** Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothing. **28** For she said, "If I just touch his clothes, I'll be made well." **29** Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** At once Jesus realized in himself that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" **31** His disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" **32** But he was looking around to see who had done this. **33** The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. **34** "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction." **35** While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?" **36** When Jesus overheard what was said, he told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid. Only believe." **37** He did not let anyone accompany him except Peter, James, and John, James's brother. **38** They came to the leader's house, and he saw a commotion—people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** He went in and said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." **40** They laughed at him, but he put them all outside. He took the child's father, mother, and those who were with him, and entered the place where the child was. **41** Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum" (which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, get up"). **42** Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was twelve years old.) At this they were utterly astounded. **43** Then he gave them strict orders that no one should know about this and told them to give her something to eat.

Intro Options

Main Point:
Jesus calls us to have faith in His ability to heal both the physical and spiritual.

Option 1

Give your students small slips of paper or Post-It notes. Ask them to write down examples of things that are shameful, or things that can make us feel shame (one item per slip). Examples might include appearance, saying the wrong thing, not being smart enough, etc. Students should keep their answers anonymous. Collect the answers.

Go through the answers (or some of them); maybe you or a student could write them on the board. After you've gone through the list, ask students to vote for a number between 1 and 5 for each item on the list; 1 means the item doesn't cause that much shame; 5 means the item causes a lot of shame. You can recite the item and students can hold a number up on their hands. If they don't want to hold their hands up high, they can hold their hands against their chests so that you can see them even though other students can't. Give an average for each item. See what they find most shameful. Discuss what makes some things more shameful than others. Do they see any patterns? Did anyone list sin as something shameful? Where would sin fall on the 1-to-5 scale?

Finally (if you have time), you can ask students in small groups to come up with a definition for shame. What definition could capture all the different items you've listed out? Today's lesson will include Jesus healing a woman who'd felt shame for many years. We'll see how trust in Jesus defeats several difficulties, one of them being the shame of impurity.

Option 2

Ask your students to imagine they are suffering in some way. It could be a physical ailment like a disease or injury; it could be emotional, like a strained relationship or feeling inadequate. Each student should pick one specific kind of suffering, though they don't have to share it.

Next, they should imagine that they find an old book. When they blow the dust off the cover, out of the book comes a rather odd-looking genie. The genie announces that he is a second-rate suffering genie. He can grant wishes, but, alas, they are very limited. Specifically, he can grant only two wishes, and they have to concern whatever suffering the student already picked. However, the genie cannot actually heal the students' suffering; he can only do things with the suffering (e.g., cause the suffering to be displayed before the world so the sufferer can get pity points, or cause the suffering to be hidden so that no one else knows). Students should come up with their two wishes regarding their suffering.

Have students share their wishes (if they are comfortable doing so). See what they would want done with their suffering; if they can't get rid of it, how would they redeem it?

In today's lesson, Jesus will address several people's suffering. He will deal with it, eventually healing it, but not in the time or way the sufferers might immediately have thought. How is Jesus better than the genie both in His wisdom and in His power?

TEACHING PLAN

Read Mark 5:25-29.

The woman of the Mark 5 story suffered. For twelve years she suffered the physical, emotional, and social costs of her incurable disease. But it was, in some ways, far worse than we can imagine today. According to Leviticus 15:25-27, her hemorrhage of blood made her ceremonially unclean. She was cast out of Jewish social life. Merely touching another person would transmit her uncleanness to them—no hugging, no handshaking, no tender pats on the head or shoulder for comfort. Her physical longing must have reached far beyond a desire for a cure. She needed human contact.

Added to her problems was the fact that she went to many doctors and spent all her money searching for a cure and found none. Mark states that she was not helped at all. In fact, she was worse off after seeing the doctors. Every attempt at healing only increased her suffering. Her desperation only grew and grew.

The woman didn't know the full power of Jesus at that moment. All she had was a simple but profound faith that He could do what others could not. She somehow knew that He alone would cure while others had only failed. So she came and reached out in faith.

- **Has desperation ever led you to Jesus? What was going on during that time?**

Read Mark 5:30-34.

The woman of Mark 5 understood shame. She was shunned by others because she was ceremonially impure because of her disease. The priest confirmed it. People turned from her on the streets. In fear of either contracting her disease or becoming ceremonially unclean, she was treated as a walking plague. She didn't merely feel worthless; to the culture, she *was* worthless. Then Jesus took a walk one day.

By this point, the woman knew Jesus was her only hope. By faith, she ran and touched His garment. That touch made Jesus ceremonially unclean, as would any touch from such an impure person. But when she touched Him, the reverse happened. Her touch didn't make Jesus unclean; Jesus' power made her clean. She didn't stay as she was. She was changed in an instant: her uncleanness for Jesus' purity. That's what the touch of faith grants. It makes us whole again. Jesus takes what we can't live with and gives us what will make us live forever. It's the exchange every desperate heart longs for—Jesus taking what we can no longer bear and giving what we can only dream of.

- **Why is shame such a powerful emotion? Why does feelings of shame often accompany feeling of hopelessness?**
- **What does the exchange between the woman's uncleanness and Jesus' purity point to about our sin and salvation?**

Jesus wanted to heal this woman deep within. He wanted to heal her shame. So He turned to the throngs of people, wanting to know who touched Him. He called her out. He forced her to step out of the crowd, to come to the center of the street, to face all those whom she knew despised her. What was Jesus doing at that moment? He was welcoming her back in. He was rejoining her to the community.

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
Jesus calls us to have faith in His ability to heal both the physical and spiritual.

Mark 5

25-26. "The Talmud listed no less than eleven cures for this specific illness. Some were potions, but others were mere superstitious folly. For example, in one place it said:

Take of the gum of Alexandria the weight of a small silver coin; of alum the same; of crocus the same. Let them be bruised together, and given in wine to the woman that has an issue of blood. If this does not benefit take of Persian onions three pints; boil them in wine, and give her to drink, and say 'Arise from thy flux.' If this does not cure her, set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let some one come behind and frighten her, and say, 'Arise from thy flux.'

In another place, the Talmud recommended that the afflicted woman carry a barley corn which had been taken from the droppings of a white she donkey! Very likely this woman had tried some of these remedies, but to no avail. Mark says she 'had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse' (Mark 5:26). The wretched woman was broke, cut off from home, society, and religion, and in declining health. She was at the bottom!"[1]

27-28. How did the woman get here? Mark tells us she heard about Jesus. Before we come to Jesus, we must hear about Him. As Paul wrote in Romans 10:14, "How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him?" As Jesus' fame spread, His message spread. She heard His word, even if not directly from his mouth. The message of hope racing around the first-century world reached her ears—and she listened. A thought rose in her heart, "If I just touch his clothes, I'll be made well" (v. 28).

99 Essential Doctrines (p. 16, DDG)

Faith

Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

TEACHING PLAN

Read Mark 5:35-36,39-43.

During this interruption, Jarius received some terrible news—his daughter had died. How Jairus' heart must have broken! Jesus, however, didn't seem surprised. Verse 36 says, in short, Jesus heard but ignored what they said. Yes, the girl died, but He's not concerned with her death. He was concerned about what Jairus believed. It's as if her death was part of the plan for the day.

This side of the cross, we understand death is not an unconquerable enemy to Jesus. But Jairus didn't know that. Even Jesus' disciples had yet to learn it. Jesus turned, looked Jairus in the eyes, and said, "Don't be afraid. Only believe."

- **How does the knowledge of Jesus' power influence any fear we may have over suffering and death?**

Just glance through the Gospels and you will see that the Bible includes several miraculous healings. After all, Jesus had just made the woman well, right? But it is not the temporary healing of this life for which Jesus wants us to trust Him. If we put all our hope in this world, no matter how long we live, suffering still wins. You will die someday. Even the woman who was healed eventually died. The greatest healing of Jesus is an eternal one. It's to that hope we must look. And it's to that hope which this passage points. It's to that hope which Jesus calls us to believe.

When our lives don't go well, it can become difficult to trust that God has a good plan for us. Biblical faith is more than trusting Jesus for physical healing. Biblical faith is trusting Jesus for resurrection healing. Jairus was looking for a fix to his current crisis. Jesus was directing him to a lasting hope, a resurrection hope. When his little girl died, did Jairus' faith die with her? No, because his faith wasn't ultimately in her life but in Jesus' word. Jesus is looking for us to have faith in Him, not in our circumstances. Because of His ability to raise Jairus' daughter—and moreover because of His own resurrection—we know we can trust Jesus even in death, we know there is hope beyond the grave.

- **How does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us hope beyond death?**

Trusting Jesus is the proper response to all troubles, physical and spiritual. We can never make ourselves whole. There was power that went out of Jesus that day to both the woman and the little girl. We want that kind of power coming toward us. In one way, it already has come to those who have placed their faith in Jesus. Yet, the gospel also promises one day we will experience Jesus' healing and resurrecting power in a fuller way.

One day this dying body will be raised to newness of life. God will give us glorified bodies that will never hurt and never die again. Until that day, we look to Jesus for hope, knowing that the promise is sure because He showed us in His resurrection. By faith, we have died with Christ, and by faith, we will be raised again. Trust him. Don't fear. Only believe.

- **What can we learn from the faith of the woman and the faith of Jairus?**

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
Jesus calls us to have faith in His ability to heal both the physical and spiritual.

Mark 5

30-34. In calling the woman to center stage, Jesus called her to Himself. When she came, she told Him the whole truth. What did she tell Him? She probably told Him everything that happened to her. That's perhaps how Mark knows her story. She told of all her struggles, all her pain and suffering, all her feelings of shame and despair, all her attempts at finding a cure. She told about seeing Him, coming to Him, touching Him, trusting in His power to help her. She told it all. She probably said more. Who knows to what depths she went. And there were things she didn't say that Jesus knew anyway. No wonder she trembled!

Activity

On the left-hand side of a white board, write each of the following phrases, with space underneath each: suffering of affliction; shame of impurity; curse of death. Ask students to come up with some examples of each of these difficulties; write those examples under each. For example, one suffering of affliction could be loss of hope; a shame of impurity might be a ruined reputation; a curse of death could be loneliness or despair.

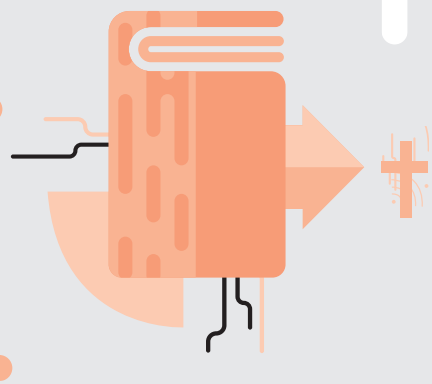
Draw an arrow going right from each of the three phrases (not the examples). After the point of each arrow, write trust in Jesus. From there, draw another arrow going right; at the end of this arrow, draw a question mark.

Tell students you want them to create drawings or skits with three parts. The first part should be someone experiencing one of the three things you wrote on the left side of the board; they can use one of the examples you came up with, or they can make their own. For example, someone might be experiencing the shame of impurity because they lost an athletic game; or someone might be experiencing the curse of death because they've lost a beloved grandparent. The second drawing or scene should show that person trusting in Jesus. The shamed athlete might remind herself that her worth is not in her performance, but in Jesus. The mourning student might trust God's perfect timing in taking his grandparent. Finally, they should make a third drawing or scene showing how trust in Jesus removes or eases the person's initial pain. For example, the athlete returns to her sport not caring what others think of her because she plays for Jesus, or the mourning boy seeks to make more memories with others because his grandparent wouldn't want him to remain in despair.

Give them time to prepare their skits or drawings and then to show them. Debrief how trust in Jesus changes specific difficulties in their lives, and how they can share trust in Jesus with others currently experiencing difficulty.

(p. 18, DDG) Christ Connection

The woman who pushed her way into the crowd around Jesus was ceremonially unclean, thereby rendering all who touched her unclean. When she touched Jesus, however, her illness was healed. Jesus' purity was more powerful than her impurity. In this encounter, we see a glimpse of what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. Through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, our shame is removed, our guilt is absolved, and God begins His work of making us pure and holy, like His Son.



JESUS HEALS A WOMAN AND RAISES A GIRL

Mark 5:21–43

JESUS HEALS A WOMAN AND RAISES A GIRL

Jesus calls us to have faith in His ability to heal both the physical and spiritual.

JESUS CONNECTION

The bleeding woman was considered unclean by Jewish law, so others refused to touch her to keep from becoming unclean, too. But when the woman touched Jesus, He didn't become impure; instead, His wholeness healed her illness completely. This is just what Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross. Through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, we are made right with God, declared "not guilty" of sin and our sin and shame is removed.

LIFEWISE QUALITY

KINDNESS – Being considerate, generous and compassionate towards others.

HEAD

How were Jairus and the bleeding woman different? How were they similar?

What did the bleeding woman do in order to be made well again? What did Jesus say really healed her?

HEART

Jesus could have let the bleeding woman disappear into the crowd unnoticed. How did her reputation and life change because of Jesus' kindness to her? In what ways could your kindness change someone's life today?

On the way to his home, Jairus was told his daughter was dead. In that moment of pain and doubt, Jesus came alongside Jairus and told him, "Don't be afraid, but believe." What does a kind act like this (i.e., encouraging someone, walking with them) do for us when life is hard?

HANDS

Think of someone you know (family, friend, classmate, neighbor) who is going through a difficult time. Spend some time praying for them. Write down three ways you can be considerate, generous and compassionate toward that person and put your ideas into practice this week.